

CONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMATION REPORT

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*File 531*

COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 12 APR 51

SUBJECT Pre-Election Activities of Labor Unions

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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[REDACTED] a number of Lebanese labor unions, both pro-communist, such as the Union of Hotel, Café, and Restaurant Workers and anti-communist, such as the Taxi Drivers' Union, had originally promised their support to Henri Fir'awn in the coming national elections.\* When Mustafa al-'Aris filed as a candidate, however, the communist-dominated unions indicated that they would support al-'Aris rather than Fir'awn.

2. Fir'awn thereupon informed the Secretary of the Union of Hotel, Café, and Restaurant Workers that he would "break" any union that failed to support him in the elections. The informant states that the pro-communist unions are disturbed by this threat, as they are aware of Fir'awn's personal power. They also believe that Fir'awn is responsible for the warrant recently issued for the arrest of al-'Aris and for what they consider to be a general Government policy to eliminate al-'Aris as a candidate.

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[REDACTED] Fir'awn is regarded by many Lebanese workers as a sort of patron of the working class. His strongest labor following is in the large, independent Taxi Drivers' Union.

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